
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

4 November 2014

Chris Rufer
Morning Star Packing Company, Inc.
724 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Fred Gobel
3552 W. Deerfield Drive
Eagle, ID 83616

REPORT OF 18 SEPTEMBER 2014 INSPECTION, THE MORNING STAR TOMATO PACKING PLANT, COLUSA COUNTY

The Morning Star Tomato Packing Plant which is owned and operated by Morning Star Packing Company, Inc. (Discharger) is regulated by the Central Valley Regional Water Board under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2013-0144. The facility processes tomatoes from approximately June to mid-October of each year. Tomatoes are received in trucks, transported into the plant by flumes, and then processed into tomato paste. Wastewater generated by the flumes is discharged to an unlined settling pond and then land applied to approximately 609 acres of crop land owned by Morning Star Packing, and 95 acres of cropland owned by Fred Gobel. In addition, wastewater generated by the evaporator system is discharged to an unlined cooling pond.

On 18 September 2014, Board staff inspected the Morning Star Tomato Packing Plant and was accompanied by Ross Oliveira, Jim Briscoe, and Troy Cano with Morning Star Packing Company, Inc., and Hillary Reinhart, a registered engineer representing the Discharger. A site inspection photograph log is enclosed with this letter.

The following summarizes the observations made and information obtained during the inspection:

- The processing water for the facility is provided by water supply wells. Water from the settling pond is reused at the tomato unloading area.
- Mr. Oliveria indicated that during the fresh pack season, the plant operates 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. He also indicated that in September, the plant was processing approximately 700 tons per hour and generating approximately 2.4 million gallons of wastewater per day.
- Minor odors were noted at the tomato unloading area (Figures 1 and 2).
- The freeboard in the wastewater settling pond was 2.5 feet based on a staff gauge. Minor amounts of vegetation observed along the edges of the pond. Mr. Oliveria indicated that the mechanical aerator located in the settling pond operates 7 days per week and 24 hours per day (Figure 4).

- Mr. Oliveria indicated that the ultrasonic flow meters at the each of the three metering structures (settling pond water, cooling pond water, and combined settling and cooling water flow) were last calibrated in May 2014 (Figures 9 and 10).
- The freeboard in the evaporative cooling pond was observed at 2.6 feet based on a staff gauge. Some vegetation was observed along the edges of the pond (Figures 7, 12 and 13).
- There were no signs of seepage from the settling and the evaporative cooling ponds. A rodent trap was observed along the northern bank of the evaporative cooling pond (Figure 14).
- All of the irrigation fields were planted in sudan grass, except for Field 14 which is planted in alfalfa. Fields MS 15 and MS 18 are shown in Figure 15.
- Mr. Oliveria indicated that the Gobel property (Field MS 1) had not been used, and was not going to be used for irrigation during the 2014 tomato processing season.
- At the time of the inspection wastewater was being applied to Fields 11, 18, and 21. Mr. Oliveria indicated that irrigation is conducted using flood irrigation methods through a series of checks. The checks consist of breakouts in the irrigation ditches (Figures 17, 18, and 19).
- There was no tailwater runoff observed from the land application areas that were inspected.
- At the time of the inspection, there were no cattle observed in the fields. Mr. Oliveria indicated that the cattle had been removed from the property in February 2014.
- No odors were noted from the land applications areas that were inspected.
- In regards to storm water management, Mr. Oliveria indicated that during the 2013/2014 winter season that all of the storm water was contained on-site. He also stated that following the 2014 processing season the residual wastewater in the ditches would be pumped out and re-applied to the land application areas.

Inspection Summary

Board staff did not observe any violations during the inspection.

Monitoring and Reporting Program

Board staff's review of monitoring reports since adoption of the WDRs in December 2013 shows that the monitoring report submittals are complete and in compliance with the WDRs and Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), including Flow Limitation B.1, and the Effluent and Mass Loading Limitations C.1 and C.2 of the WDRs. However, during our review, Board staff noticed that the 2014 First Semi-Annual Monitoring Report was received 25 days late. A review of the 2014 First-Semi Annual Monitoring Report shows that the Discharger is in compliance with Groundwater Limitations E.1 of the WDRs.

Please be advised that the MRP requires that monthly monitoring reports be submitted by the 1st day of the second month following the sampling, and semi-annual monitoring reports be submitted by the 1st day of the second month after the quarter of sampling. Annual monitoring reports shall be submitted by 1 February of each year. In addition, the March 2014, April 2014, July 2014, August 2014, and 2014 Second Semi-Annual Monitoring Report did not include the *Monitoring Report Submittal Transmittal Form*. To ensure that the monitoring reports are accurately logged into our database, please use the enclosed form with all monitoring report submittals.

Finally, please be advised that as described in the Executive Officer's letter of 26 September 2014, we are transitioning to a paperless office. Therefore, please convert all submittals to a pdf and email them to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov. To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff as quickly as possible, please include the following information in the body of the email: Attention Guy Childs, Compliance Unit, Waste Discharge to Land (Non 15 Unit). In addition, please include your name, facility name, county, and CIWQS place ID No. 272617 in the body of the email.

If you have any questions regarding this Inspection Report or submitting the documents, please contact me at (916) 464-4648 or at gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov.



GUY CHILDS, P.G.
Engineering Geologist
WDR Compliance and Enforcement Unit

Encl: Inspection photographs
 Monitoring Report Transmittal Form

cc: Craig Erickson, Colusa County Environmental Health Department, Colusa
 Ross Oliveria, The Morning Star Packing Company, Inc., Williams
 Hillary Reinhart, Madison

CIWQS Inspection No: 17927127

gjc: 4 Nov-14



Figure No. 1: Tomato unloading area



Figure No. 2: Looking at initial washing inside the tomato unloading area.



Figure No. 3: Looking north at the washwater settling pond and the tomato unloading area. The water in this pond is from the tomato unloading area.



Figure No. 4: Concrete outflow structure in process washwater settling pond.



Figure No. 5: Looking northwest at the tomato processing system.



Figure No. 6: One of several slot drains located within the processing facility.



Figure No. 7: Looking north at evaporative cooling pond. The pond consists of a mixture of water softener reject, condensate from the evaporative coolers and boiler blowdown water.



Figure No. 8: Bins used for the collection of tomato solids. The tomato solids are transported to the fields and land applied as a soil amendment.



Figure No. 9: Metering structures for the evaporative cooling pond and the combined flows. The upstream structure to the right of the ditch is used to measure flows from the evaporative cooling pond and the structure in the ditch is used to measure combined flows.



Figure No. 10: Digital display ultrasonic flow meter.



Figure No. 11: Looking at the flows in the ditch north of the metering structure.



Figure No. 12: Looking north at the 60 acre evaporative cooling pond.



Figure No. 13: Looking northwest at the freeboard staff gauges in the evaporative cooling pond.



Figure No. 14: Rodent trap located along the western berm of the evaporative cooling pond.



Figure No. 15: Looking west at the irrigation ditch and field MS15 and 18 which are planted in Sudan grass.



Figure No. 16: One of the concrete flow structures used for irrigating the fields.



Figure No. 17: Looking at one of the irrigation ditches and check systems. The level in the ditch is controlled by the use of plastic sheets and tarps.



Figure No. 18: Close-up photo of a one of the plastic sheets in an irrigation ditch.



Figure No. 19: Looking north at flood irrigation through a check at one of fields.



Figure No. 20: One of the tailwater ditches used to capture any runoff from an irrigation field.

Guy Childs, P.G., Engineering Geologist

Monitoring Report Submittal Transmittal Form

Attn: Guy Childs (916) 464-4648
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Discharger: The Morning Star Packing Company, LP and Fred Gobel
Name of Facility: Williams Facility
WDRs Order Number: R5-2013-0144
WDID: 5A062005001
County: Colusa

I am hereby submitting to the Central Valley Water Board the following information:

Check all that apply:

Monthly Monitoring Report for the month of _____

1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th (circle one) Quarterly Monitoring Report for the year of _____

1st / 2nd (circle one) Semi-annual Monitoring Report for the year _____

Annual Monitoring Report for the year _____

Violation Notification

During the monitoring period, there were / were not (circle one) any violations of the WDRs.

1. The violations were: *(add extra pages as needed)*
2. Have the violations been corrected? Yes / No. If no, what will be done to correct the violations: *(add extra pages as needed)*

Certification Statement

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."

Signature: _____ Phone: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____